(ii) Physically Handicapped Persons (PH) — 5%
(iii) Defence personnel (DC) — 8%
(iv) Para-military/police/Govt. personnel (PMP) — 8%
(v) Freedom Fighters(FF) — 2%
(vi) Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP) — 2%
(vii) Open Category (D) — 50%

33% of the dealerships/distributorship in all categories mentioned above will be reserved for women belonging to that category.

Salient features of the new policy guidelines are as under:—

(i) 33% of dealerships/distributorships have been reserved for women in all categories.

(ii) A separate reservation of 8% has been made for Paramilitary/Police/Customs & Central Excise/Government Personnel disabled/incapacitated while in service. Widows/dependents of those who died while in service will also benefit from this reservation.

(iii) The maximum age limit under applicable categories has been increased from 50 years to 60 years.

(iv) The income limit has been raised from Rs. 50,000 per annum to Rs. 2 lacs per annum.

(v) Relationship clause governing multiple dealership has been simplified keeping in view the changing social norms.

(vi) Widows and unmarried women of and above 40 years of age and without earning parents will be entitled to financial assistance as available to SC/ST allottees under Corpus Fund Scheme.

(vii) Oil Companies have been involved in the selection process.

(viii) Selection of dealers/distributors will be made by duly constituted Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) each consisting of the following:—

(a) A retired High Court Judge Chairman

(b) An Officer not below the rank of Dy. General Manager of the concerned Oil Company. Member

(c) An Officer not below the rank of Dy. General Manager of another Oil Company. Member

(ix) The Selection Board will judge the inter-se suitability of the candidates on the basis of their —

(a) Personality, business ability, salesmanship.

(b) Capability to arrange finance.

(c) Educational qualification and general level of intelligence.

(d) Capability to provide infrastructure and feasibility, and

(e) General assessment.

(x) The new system of selection is expected to ensure faster and fair selection of suitable candidates, transparency in selection, to prevent chances of irregularities and corruption and to economise in expenditure in the selection of dealers and distributors.

Cess Collected Under OIDB Act, 1974

418. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 585 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1997 and state:

(a) the funds collected as cess under OIDB Act, 1974 till March, 1997;

(b) the funds disbursed by OIDB to Petroleum Sector till March, 1997;

(c) the name of the Oil Companies/ guarantee institutions which did not draw the funds for which projections were made by them; and

(d) the reasons for non-drawal of funds?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) A sum of Rs. 28,900 crores approximately has been collected as cess on crude oil upto the end of March, 1997.

(b) An amount of Rs. 7607 crores (approx.) has been disbursed by OIDB to the Petroleum Sector till March, 1997 in the form of loans and grants.

(c) and (d) Oil Companies and grantee institutions had drawn funds as per their requirements.

Import of LNG for Power Sector

419. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up any project to import of LNG for power sector by the ONGC, IOC and GAIL;

(b) whether Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if so, whether the terminal for import of LNG is proposed to be set up in Gujarat for giving benefit to the power projects including starved Power Project of Pipavav; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Union Government has approved formation of Joint Venture Company with equity participation upto 50% from GAIL, ONGC, IOC and BPCL for import of LNG and setting up of LNG terminals.

(c) The new Joint Venture Company is examining the various parts in Gujarat for the import of LNG to be utilised mainly for the power sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Extension of Long Distance Trains Upto Gandhidham

420. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand for the extension of long distance trains upto Gandhidham;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon alongwith the details of long distance trains proposed to be extended upto Gandhidham?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There have been some demands in this regard.

(b) Extension of trains including of Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Madras-Ahmedabad Express etc. upto Gandhidham has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Authorisation of Travel Agencies for the Ticket Reservations

421. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have appointed a number of travel agencies authorising them to arrange reserved tickets for the public;

(b) if so, on what terms and conditions such agencies are appointed;

(c) whether any monitoring and checking authority has also been appointed to avoid indulgence in malpractices by such agencies;